

RURAL DISTRICT OF WELLS

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(including the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector)

FOR THE YEAR

1970

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Deryck E. Clare, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., M.R.S.H.

LOCUM DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. Pinching, B.M., B.Ch., M.R.C.P.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

S. Harkness, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

T.E. Mason.

COMMITTEES DEALING WITH MATTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Committee
Housing Committee



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29th July 1971.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Wells Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my 10th Annual Report on the Health of the Rural District, compiled in accordance with Circular 1/71 of the Department of Health and Social Security.

The vital statistics show a birth rate less than county and national averages, with a raised still-birth rate and raised infant mortality, but the general death rate remains below county and national figures. As regards causes of death, these present in much the same order but there is again a rise in the number of deaths from accidents.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases showed little of importance apart from a moderate outbreak of measles. In common with the rest of the country, Hong Kong 'Flu made its presence felt in the District in the early months of the year, but there was only one death directly ascribed to this virus, and essential workers who had been vaccinated against the illness felt the benefit of this protection.

Progress on the environmental side has been detailed by the Chief Public Health Inspector in his excellent Report, and I am once again deeply indebted to him and his staff for their constant cooperation throughout the year.

My thanks are also due to the Clerk, other officers of the Council and Members for their courtesy and support, and to my secretary, Mrs. M.A. Paton for the entire assembly of this Report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

D. E. CLARE.
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District (in acres)	57,175
Population (mid-year 1970)	11,010
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,508
Rateable Value	£307,867
Product of a Penny Rate	£1,236 - 2 - 3d.

MAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1970

(With comparative figures for Somerset and England & Wales where available)

BIRTHS

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Wells R.D.C.</u>		<u>Somerset</u>	<u>England & Wales</u> (Provisional)
				<u>Recorded</u>	<u>Corrected</u>		
Legitimate	72	59	131			8,282	
Illegitimate	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>			<u>545</u>	
Totals	<u>79</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>143</u>			<u>8,827</u>	784,482
Rate per 1,000 population			13.0	13.7		15.1	16.0
(Area Births Comparability Factor 1.05)						(Corrected)	
Ratio of local corrected birth rate to national rate .85							

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS

(per cent of total live births)	8.0	6.0	8.0
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STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	1	1	2			9,297
Illegitimate	-	-	-			<u>1,044</u>
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>		94	<u>10,341</u>
Rate per 1,000 live and still births			14.0		11.0	13.0

TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS

	80	65	145			8,921	794,823
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DEATHS

<u>TOTAL DEATHS</u> (all ages)	75	115	190			7,493	575,208
Rate per 1,000 population			17.3	10.0		10.6	11.7
(Area Deaths Comparability Factor .58)						(Corrected)	
Ratio of local corrected death rate to national rate .86							

INFANT DEATHS

(under 1 year)

Legitimate	4	-	4			12,592
Illegitimate	-	-	-			<u>1,677</u>
Totals	<u>4</u>	-	<u>4</u>		146	<u>14,269</u>

(Under 4 weeks)

Legitimate	3	-	3			8,548
Illegitimate	-	-	-			<u>1,115</u>
Totals	<u>3</u>	-	<u>3</u>		99	<u>9,663</u>

2000

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2 - 2

2000

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INFANT MORTALITY RATES FOR 1970 (Cont'd)

<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (under 1 week)	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Cells R.D.C.</u> <u>Recorded Corrected</u>	<u>as reported</u>	<u>Estimated</u> (Provisional)
Legitimate	2	-	2			7,343
Illegitimate	-	-	-			985
Totals	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>			<u>8,328</u>

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total Infant deaths per 1,000			
Total Live Births	28.0	17.0	18.0
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000			
Legitimate Live Births	31.0	16.0	17.0
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per			
1,000 illegitimate live births	-	24.0	26.0

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATES

(deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000			
total live births)	21.0	11.0	12.0

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

(deaths under 1 week per 1,000			
total live births)	14.0	9.0	11.0

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

(still births & deaths under 1 week			
combined per 1,000 live &			
still births)	28.0	20.0	23.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY

(Including abortion)

Number of deaths	-	1	
Rate per 1,000 total live &			
still births	-	.11	

CERTAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD 1966-1970
WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR SOMERSET AND ENGLAND & WALES

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
1. <u>Corrected Birth Rate</u>					
Wells R.D.C.	14.91	15.0	14.7	15.3	13.7
Somerset	17.86	17.7	16.9	16.8	15.1
England & Wales	17.7	17.2	16.9	16.3	16.0
2. <u>Corrected Death Rate</u>					
Wells R.D.C.	8.73	8.26	10.6	8.6	10.0
Somerset	10.37	10.1	10.9	10.8	10.6
England & Wales	11.7	11.2	11.9	11.9	11.7
3. <u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>					
Wells R.D.C.	25.64	25.0	6.4	6.0	28.0
Somerset	15.12	14.0	15.6	16.0	17.0
England & Wales	19.0	18.3	18.0	18.0	18.0

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(5 year period 1966-1970)

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>				
	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	2
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	1	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	12	2
Measles	33	207	55	13	90
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	3	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis - Non Respiratory	-	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	2	5	-	-
Totals	39	210	60	26	94

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1970
(As given by the Registrar-General)

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 wks	4 wks & under 1 year	Age in Years									
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & up	
Enteritis and Other	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Diarrhoeal Diseases	F	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Syphilis and Its	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Sequelae	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Infective and	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Parasitic Diseases	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	
Other Malignant	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	
Neoplasms	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	
Diabetes Mellitus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Other Endocrine etc.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Diseases	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Other Diseases of	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Nervous System	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Chronic Rheumatic	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Heart Disease	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Ischaemic Heart	M	14	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	3	7		
Disease	F	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	11	33		
Other Forms of	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2		
Heart Disease	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6		
Cerebrovascular	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2		
Disease	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6		
Other Diseases of	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Circulatory System	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3		
Influenza	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		
Pneumonia	M	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	5		
	F	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	10		

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 wks	4 wks & under 1 year	Age in Years									
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & up	
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	
Peptic Ulcer	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Congenital Anomalies	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
All Other Accidents	M	8	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	
<hr/>														
Total All Causes	M	75	3	1	1	1	1	-	1	3	11	25	28	
	F	115	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	12	25	75	

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

Visits by the Mass Radiography Service to the Union Street Car Park were resumed in April, and were made at monthly intervals.

The number of G.P. referrals included in the figures given below was 9.

	Male	Female	Total
Numbers examined	168	180	348
Abnormalities detected	1	1	2
<u>DETAILS OF ABNORMALITIES DETECTED</u>			
Acquired Cardiac Lesion	1	-	1
Bacterial and Virus Infections of the Lungs	-	1	1

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1970

(Although as a general rule the figures are too small for much significance to be attached to them, nevertheless certain broad statements can be made).

Population

The mid-year population was estimated by the Registrar-General to be the same as for 1969. Deaths exceeded births by 47, again largely due to the elderly population in the Mendip Hospital.

Births

Live Births - fell by 18 compared with the previous year and the birth rate remained below County and National figures. The number of illegitimate births rose by one to 8 and the Illegitimate Live Birth Rate was the same as the National figure.

Still Births - totalled 2, as in 1969, and the Still Birth Rate rose above County and National figures.

Deaths

All Ages - rose by 12 over the total for the previous year but when corrected by the Area Deaths Comparability Factor the Local Adjusted Death Rate remains below County and National rates.

Infant Mortality - deaths of infants rose to 4, 2 occurring at under 1 week of age, with a result that the various infant mortality rates were generally higher than those for Somerset or England & Wales.

Maternal Mortality - again nil.

Causes of Death

Heart, Cerebrovascular and Other Diseases of the Circulatory System once more accounted for the largest number of deaths in the District, but their total (91) was 7 less than in 1969. Heart diseases caused 71 of these, and Cerebrovascular diseases 15.

Respiratory Diseases - followed with 42 deaths, 10 more than in 1969, Pneumonia causing the largest number (27) and Bronchitis and Emphysema 14.

Cancer deaths - totalled 26, 10 more than in the previous year, and as regards site, it will be seen that 12 were related to the digestive tract, 3 lung and 3 breast.

Accidents - accounted for 14 deaths, 6 more than in 1969, but of these only one involved a motor vehicle. It is particularly unfortunate that 3 of these deaths were in children under 15 years, all male and one under a year, and points to the need for constant vigilance in the early years.

NOTES ON NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

From the Five-Year Table it will be seen that Sonne dysentery reared its head for the first time in the District in 5 years - both cases occurred in the chronic male wards of the Mendip Hospital and thanks to the prompt action of the staff there was no further spread.

2 more cases of Infective Jaundice occurred but they were unrelated in time and locality, and there was no spread.

There was a moderate outbreak of measles, 90 cases, the highest for 4 years, in spite of anti-measles vaccination.

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING & HUMAN SALMONELLA
INFECTIONS

Of the 5 cases of human salmonella infection reported, 2 were caused by S. typhimurium and the rest by S. chester. The former were unrelated in time or locality and were believed to follow animal infection but the latter 3 cases were all children in a family that had recently returned from a holiday in Spain.

MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1959

No official action was required during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SEC.47) & AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

Visits continued to be made by the Chief Public Health Inspector and myself to the elderly lady in Part III accommodation at Greenhill House, Cheddar, who was the subject of a Removal Order in 1968, and it was necessary to apply to Wells Magistrates Court for a renewal of this Order every three months.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

No new schemes were completed or commenced during the year and those villages with efficient sewerage and sewage disposal systems remain as previously stated, namely:-

Wookey	
Walton	
Meare (central part of village only)	
Easton	} Joint scheme
Westbury-sub-Mendip	
Rodney Stoke	} Joint scheme
Draycott	
Butleigh	} Joint scheme
Butleigh Wootton	
Baltonsborough	

When possible the drainage systems of new houses erected during the year have been connected to public sewers. In addition, the drainage systems of many existing houses were altered to connect to public sewers.

Proposals for sewerage Worth, Yarley, Henton and Bleadney were discussed with an Engineering Inspector from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government when he visited Wells in January. The opportunity was also taken to consult him regarding the possibility of sewerage the village of West Pennard following representations from the Somerset River Authority previously reported. The proposals for West Pennard included details for conveying and treating sewage at the existing Butleigh Sewage Disposal Works, spare capacity being available for the purpose.

Following the Inspector's visit, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government agreed in April to the Wookey scheme incorporating the sewerage of Worth, Yarley, Henton and Bleadney at an estimated cost of £113,700 and gave permission for tenders to be invited.

A draft scheme of sewers to serve Oxenpill, Westhay, Stileway and fourteen Council houses at Godney was submitted to and approved by the appropriate Committee of the Council in May and work on the details commenced immediately afterwards.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government wrote early in the year accepting the need for the Wookey Hole Scheme including the Glencot and Haybridge areas and agreed that the work could proceed concurrently with the improvements to Wells City Burcott Sewage Disposal Works. As the Wookey Hole Scheme and the Coxley Scheme submitted to the Ministry in 1968 are both dependant on the Burcott Sewage Disposal Works for treatment it was fortunate that towards the end of the year approval was given to Wells City Council's proposals for extending the Works in question. About this time approval was also given to the Council to obtain tenders for the Coxley Scheme and information received that work on the improvements to Burcott Sewage Disposal Works were likely to commence within two and a half years.

It is understood that, on completion of the extension to Burcott Sewage Disposal Works, capacity will be available for treating sewage from villages in the Rural District adjoining the City of Wells yet to be provided with public sewers.

WATER SUPPLIES

No notification of shortage was received during the summer and the quality and quantity of water available to consumers in the villages throughout the year was satisfactory. The statutory undertakers, Bristol Waterworks Company, remain satisfied that the waters supplied for consumption in the area are not plumbo-solvent.

MAINS LAID BY BRISTOL WATERWORKS COMPANY IN WELLS R.D.C. AREA DURING THE PAST YEAR.

Size of Main	Length of Main - In Yards			
	3"	4"	8"	10"
Tappings Mains	613	949	620	3,983

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Year 1970

<u>Raw Waters</u>	No. of Samples Examined	Average No. Faecal Coliforms Per 100 ml	Average No. of Non-Faecal Coliforms Per 100 ml	Colonies on Agar 2 Days @ 37°C
West Compton	26	29	36	12
Priddy	26	17	17	27
Honeyhurst	26	24	31	50
Cheddar	22	30	42	83
Stoke Bottom	47	3500	5400	512
<u>Treated Waters</u>	No. of Samples Examined	No. Free from Faecal Coliforms	No. Free from Non-Faecal Coliforms	% Satisfactory
West Compton	50	49	49	98
Priddy	49	48	48	98
Honeyhurst	49	49	49	100
Cheddar	48	48	48	100
Stoke Bottom	46	46	46	100
Southtown	49	33	32	65
Distribution System	127	126	125	98

Remarks Unsatisfactory sample due to chlorination failures which have been reflected in distribution samples. Southtown to be abandoned in 1971.

NOTES ON WATER SUPPLIES TO INDIVIDUAL VILLAGES

BALTONSBOROUGH

Each inhabited house has a supply laid on.

BUTLEIGH

158 houses are supplied with main water and a few of the outlying properties rely on wells.

CHEWTON MENDIP

Most of the 180 houses in this village are supplied with water from the Waldegrave Estate Company's private supply. A few properties, because of their situation, rely on wells or rain water storage.

OUT ST. CUTHBERT

East and West Horrington - 89 houses out of 138 have a piped supply and the remainder are supplied from standpipes.

Coxley - approximately 156 out of 208 are supplied with water on tap and the only suppliers now are the statutory undertakers since a new main was laid for the benefit of the residents of Coxley Wick.

Burcott - few houses but mainly relying on wells.

Easton - this village has a main water supply. 82 of the 109 houses are connected to the Bristol Waterworks Company's mains and 24 rely on standpipes.

Wookey Hole, Elm Close and Haybridge - these groups of houses are supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company.

Dulcote - some 46 houses of which 33 have a piped supply derived from a small private water system installed many years ago. The quality and quantity of this supply has been satisfactory during the year.

Chilcote, Worminster, Milton and Walcombe - these small groups of houses have piped supplies from various sources and their needs appear to have been met.

DINDER

55 out of 63 houses have piped supplies from the Dinder Estate Supply.

This water is derived from springs which rise near Masbury Ring. The remainder of the houses are not within reach of the mains and have to rely on wells, etc. for their water. The Dinder Estate Supply is adequate in quantity for the needs of the village and the quality has been maintained by chlorination.

GODNEY

55 out of 76 houses have piped supplies from the mains of the statutory undertakers. The remainder of the houses have to rely on private supplies as they are not in compact groups or within easy reach of the trunk main.

MEARE

The Bristol Waterworks Company supply this village. 218 out of 300 houses have piped water and a few are still served by standpipe.

NORTH WOOTTON

81 out of 95 houses have piped water of good quality and unlimited quantity. The village is supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company.

PRIDDY

66 out of the 103 houses have piped supplies. The majority of this number are supplied from the Bristol Waterworks Company's mains but there are still a few obtaining water from agricultural systems installed by the Church Commissioners.

RODNEY STOKE

There are 295 houses in this parish and 270 are supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company.

SHARPHAM

10 houses out of 30 have piped supplies. The remainder are not within easy reach of the main and have to haul water from one of two standpipes which have been provided.

WALTON

There are 228 houses, and all except the outlying ones now have water on tap. The total number of houses with piped water is 201.

WESTBURY-SUB-MENDIP

The total number of houses in this parish is 228 and 204 have main water.

WEST PENNARD

188 out of 206 houses have piped supplies. The remainder have standpipes within easy reach or rely on private supplies.

WOOKEY

A rather scattered parish comprising Wookey, Worth, Yarley, Henton and Bleadney. There are 353 houses in this village and 264 have piped water from the Bristol Waterworks Company's mains.

THE MENDIP HOSPITAL

This large hospital which houses over 1,000 patients and staff has its own water supply. The main source is two boreholes situated between Bristol Road and Watchet's Springs which provides the water for East and West Horrington. These boreholes are in the old red sandstone formation, and yield sufficient water for the very large demands of this hospital.

Arrangements have been made with the Bristol Waterworks Company to provide a supply in an emergency.

INSPECTIONS

The following is a summary of the inspections made during the year:-

<u>Infectious Diseases</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
<u>Disinfectants</u> - supplied by the Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
<u>Visits</u> connected with Suspected Food Poisoning Outbreaks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
<u>Nuisances</u> - arising from foul and choked drains, foul accumulations, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
<u>Drainage Works</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	349
<u>Samples</u> - of drinking water sent to the County Lab. for chemical analysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
<u>Samples</u> - of drinking water sent to the P.H. Lab. for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
<u>Petroleum Acts</u> - premises licensed under Petroleum Acts for the storage of petrol	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
<u>Visits</u> - re water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
<u>Bakehouses</u> (1), <u>Slaughterhouses</u> (4), inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
<u>Public Schools</u> - inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
<u>Dairies</u> - visits to	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
<u>Visits</u> - re food inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	231
<u>Other Inspections</u> - under Housing acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	142
<u>Visits</u> - re refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
<u>Inspections</u> - Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
<u>Caravans</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81

ICE CREAM

Premises registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream	NIL
Premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream	59

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is only one slaughterhouse licensed and in use in the district and it forms part of a retail butchers premises. The combined business of slaughtering and butchering is well managed and the whole of the property concerned being owner occupied is maintained at a high standard. Furthermore, the slaughterhouse complies in every detail with the structural provisions of the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations.

The whole of the slaughterhouse throughput detailed in the schedule attached to this report was inspected in accordance with the provisions of the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963.

Although there are a number of poultry farms in the R.D.C's area no establishment undertakes processing for the wholesale or retail trade.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The refuse collection service covers the whole of the rural district. The arrangement with the Contractor is for a fortnightly collection from each house. The Contractor, under agreement, provides a suitable vehicle and engages all labour essential for the efficient execution of the work.

After collection, refuse is conveyed to a disused quarry situated in the rural district two miles or so from Wells City where it is tipped and afterwards covered with suitable material.

The composition of domestic refuse is such as to attract pests. The tip and surrounding area is therefore inspected regularly and appropriate action for eradication taken when required.

Little annoyance was caused from indiscriminate disposal of picnic litter during the summer months. Litter bins were again provided on road verges, in laybys and at picnic places and were much used.

Most occupiers of houses with septic tank drainage systems take advantage of the free emptying service. Generally speaking, premises which qualify for the free service are those which cannot benefit from a public sewer.

No vehicles were abandoned during the year but on one or two occasions special arrangements were made for the removal of bulky items from open spaces.

FOOD INSPECTION

No new businesses connected with the preparation, storage or sale of food were established during the year.

A cordial relationship exists with owners and occupiers of existing premises and a high standard of hygiene has been maintained without the necessity of enforcement action.

A person preparing imported mutton in a school kitchen prior to cooking suspected that it was unfit for human consumption and requested advice. On inspection it was apparent that the animal from which the meat had been obtained suffered from Caseous lymphadenitis. The meat, the subject of the complaint, was destroyed and the appropriate department of the Somerset County Council informed.

A small quantity of canned food was surrendered but there were no cases requiring action under Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955.

DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF MILK

One retail milk business changed hands during the period under review but the total number of distributors remains at seven.

The results of samples submitted to the appropriate tests indicated that the milk sold in the district was of satisfactory quality.

The Somerset County Council enforces the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1960 and issue licences to all dealers of designated milk except those retailers controlled by the County Agricultural Committee.

There were no reported cases of Brucella Abortus.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	39	23	NIL	NIL
(iii) Other premises enforced by Local Authority	7	10	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	48	35	NIL	NIL

DEFECTS Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation in two instances -
remedied on informal action.

OUTWORKERS There are 16 Outworkers in the District (concerned
with wearing apparel).

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

	No. of Premises	No. Complying with Reg:16	No. of premises to which Reg:19 applies	No. of premises fitted to comply with Reg:19
Grocers	37	36	37	37
Butchers	3	3	3	3
Catering Premises (including licensed premises)	42	41	42	42
School Kitchens	5	5	5	5
Totals	87	85	87	87

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957

Notification was received from a licensee in July intimating that he had ceased processing waste food at his premises and as a consequence the licence issued in respect of the plant and equipment was revoked.

The establishment giving concern and referred to in the report for 1969 is now satisfactory. A new oil fired boiler plant has been installed to replace the defective solid fuel one.

There are now only three plants operating in the district subject to licence; each has been visited on several occasions and found to be satisfactory.

Each licensee was sent a copy of the Order following the circular from the Clerk of Somerset County Council in July stating that the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food had expressed concern that some persons handling waste foods might not have sufficient regard to the disease risks and that it was possible that unboiled material was finding its way to animals.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

No formal action was necessary during the year.

MEAT INSPECTION

Period - 1st January / 31st December, 1970

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	86	NIL	1	410	96	NIL
Number Inspected	86	NIL	1	410	96	NIL
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysterci:						
Whole Carcasses condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	12	NIL	NIL	5	6	NIL
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:	13.95%	NIL	NIL	1.22%	6.25%	NIL
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and Totally Condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of Meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-						
(a) Tuberculosis	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(b) Cysticercosis	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(c) Other	151	NIL	NIL	17	16	NIL
Total (in lbs.) condemned	151	NIL	NIL	17	16	NIL

